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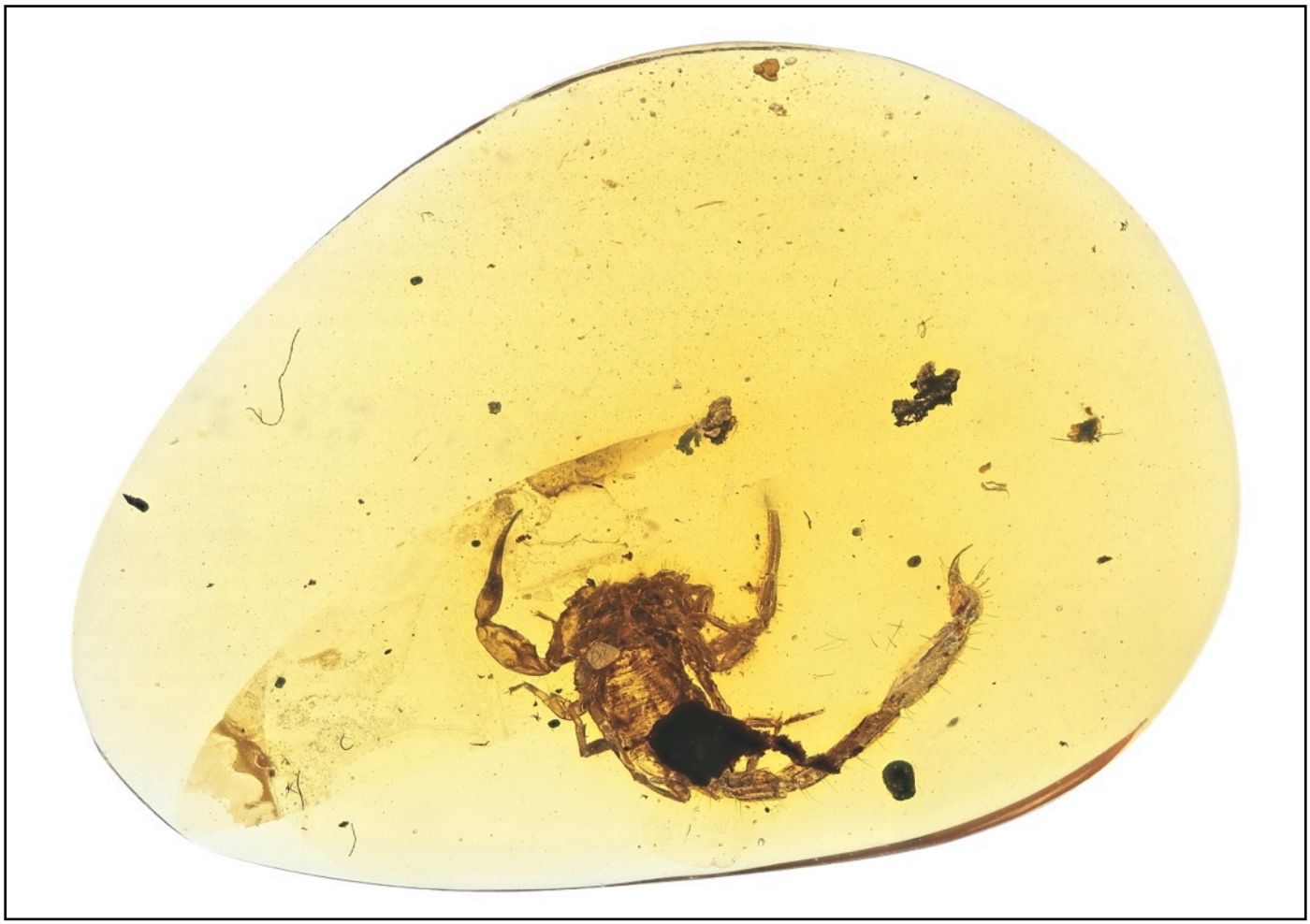

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One more remarkable new genus and species of fossil scorpion from Burmese Cretaceous amber associated to the extant family Buthidae (Scorpiones: Buthoidea)

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Keywords:

Scorpiones;
Palaeobutheolus;
andreschmidti;
new genus;
new species;
taxonomy;
description;
variability;
fossil;
Burmite.

Abstract. – The study of a new scorpion specimen from Cretaceous Burmite leads to the descriptions of a new genus and species which once again can be associated to the buthoid lineage and to the family Buthidae C. L. Koch, 1837. The new species shows quite distinct characters, particularly a telson with a rounded-shape, absence of a sub-aculear tooth and the presence of a pseudo annular ring, which is uncommon among buthids in general. Several of its features can associate the new genus to some extant genera such as *Butheolus* Simon, 1882 and *Hottentotta* Birula, 1908. The discovery of this new genus and species confirms, once again, the existence of buthid elements within the Burmite fauna.

Lourenço W. R. & Velten J., 2025. – One more remarkable new genus and species of fossil scorpion from Burmese Cretaceous amber associated to the extant family Buthidae (Scorpiones: Buthoidea). *Faunitaxys*, 13(35): 1 – 6.

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Introduction

As already stated before, among the fossil arthropods found in amber, scorpions still remain uncommon. However, more and more specimens from Burmite are presently becoming available, leading to new studies which are bringing a global view about this Cretaceous scorpion fauna (e. g. Lourenço, 2023; Lourenço & Velten, 2025a,b).
After the clarification of the familial status of the genera *Palaeoburmesebuthus* and *Betaburmesebuthus,* these lineages were placed in their own family Palaeoburmesebuthidae (Lourenço, 2015). The association of this new family to buthoids was clearly confirmed following the discovery of several well-preserved specimens which revealed common characters with the buthoids, such as their trichobothrial patterns, which are almost identical to those of most extant buthoids (Lourenço, 2016; Lourenço & Beigel, 2015). More remarkable was the proposition of a new genus *Archaeoananteroides* Lourenço, 2016 clearly associated to buthids, but subsequently transferred to the revalidated family Ananteridae Pocock, 1900 (Lourenço & Velten, 2025c). These studies were followed by others in which a second genus, *Cretaceousbuthus* Lourenço, 2022 was described with a clear association to the family Buthidae (Lourenço & Velten, 2022). This genus is up to now represented by two species *Cretaceousbuthus fraaijeorum* Lourenço, 2022 and *Cretaceousbuthus petersi* Lourenço, 2023 (Lourenço & Velten, 2022, 2023).
It seems important to recall that the existence of buthoid elements during the Cretaceous is often rejected, mainly based on theoretical speculation or 'recommendations' (Santiago-Blay et al., 2022) which sound more like a form of pontification. In the light, however of so many new discoveries which bring a new support to the presence of buthid elements during the Cretaceous, this point will not be further debated here.
In the present contribution two new scorpion specimens are studied. One represents a species previously described, comforting therefore its status. The second scorpion is represented by a complete specimen, presenting quite unique characters, leading to the description of a new genus and species which recall extant buthid groups such as *Butheolus* Simon, 1882 and *Hottentotta* Birula, 1908 (Figs. 1-2). This new finding comforts the existence of buthid elements during the Cretaceous period and once again attests about the important degree of scorpion diversity in the Burmese amber-producing forests.

Material and methods

The specimens investigated are preserved in very clear pieces of pale-yellow amber. The new species is trapped in a piece measuring 16x12x2 mm. The scorpion representing the new genus and species is complete. Since the resin is rather pale and largely translucid many characters are clearly visible; only the observation of a few regions is disturbed by the presence of some inclusions; mainly vegetal debris. The schematic drawings provided are an interpretation of what was observable. Illustrations and measurements were produced with the aid of a Wild M5 stereomicroscope, equipped with a drawing tube (camera lucida) and an ocular micrometre. Measurements follow Stahnke (1970) and are given in mm. Trichobothrial notations are those of Vachon (1974, 1975). Other morphological terminologies mostly follow Hjelle (1990). Trichobothria are definitely recorded

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when their bothria (areoles) can be observed; nevertheless, some trichobothria can be deduced through the observation of thin hairs. Considering the morphologies of pedipalp and pectines the scorpion is most certainly a male and probably represents a pre-adult or a juvenile.

Taxonomic treatment

Superfamily **Buthoidea** C. L. Koch, 1837

Family **Buthidae** C. L. Koch, 1837
(Assignment requiring further investigation)

Genus ***Palaeobutheolus*** Lourenço **gen**. **n**.

ZooBank: https://zoobank.org/FA76305B-CC65-4573-B818-824E1C50B764

Type species. – *Palaeobutheolus andreschmidti* Lourenço **sp**. **n**.
(Fig. 3-15)

ZooBank: https://zoobank.org/60552926-E41F-4722-972F-A2B3BF4640AE

Diagnosis for the new genus. – The general morphology of the new scorpion is similar to that of some genera of extant buthoid scorpions (e. g. *Butheolus* and *Hottentotta*), but also with that of one buthid genus previously found in Burmite, namely *Cretaceousbuthus* Lourenço, 2022. In account however, of some marked distinct characters presented by the new species, a new genus is proposed to accommodate it. Specimen rather bulk with moderately long pedipalps. Anterior margin of carapace with a vestigial concavity, almost straight. Two large median eyes and three pairs of lateral eyes. Sternum pentagonal. Tergites with one median carinae and two weak lateral carinae. Metasomal segments approximately rounded and with possibly 10 carinae on I-II; 8 carinae on III-IV. Telson rounded in shape, without any sub-aculear tooth but with a pseudo annular ring, character rather uncommon among buthids. Chela fingers with 8-9 rows of small granules, separated by slightly bigger central accessory granules. Trichobothrial pattern similar to that of extant buthid type A (Vachon 1974); the dorsal trichobothria of femur presenting a beta disposition (Vachon, 1975). Femur majorante neobothriotaxic with 4 internal, 5 dorsal and 3 external. Patella minorante neobothriotaxic with 1 internal, dorsal $\mathbf{d_1}$ to $\mathbf{d_5}$ but absence of $\mathbf{d_2}$; a number of external trichobothria can be observed at least by the presence of thin hairs; ventral trichobothria absent. Chela with at least 6 trichobothria on fixed finger, **dt**, **db**, **et**, **est**, **esb** and **eb** and 6-8 on chela hand, **Et**, **Est**, **Esb**, $\mathbf{Eb_1}$ and $\mathbf{Eb_3}$; $\mathbf{Eb_2}$ may be absent. On ventral aspect, $\mathbf{V_1}$ may also be absent. Cheliceral dentition similar to that defined for buthids by Vachon (1963); two small basal teeth on both fingers. Tibial spurs present on legs III and IV, moderate in size. Pedal spurs present in all legs.

Derivatio nominis. – Generic name associates *Palaeo* (ancient) with the extant genus *Butheolus*, and indicates its close association with this genus.

Diagnosis for the new species. – The same as for the new genus.

Holotype. – Most certainly a pre-adult male.

Type locality and horizon. – Myanmar (Burma), Kachin; precise locality unknown; Lower Cretaceous.

Patronym. – The specific name honors Mr Andrè Schmidt, (Zofingen, Switzerland)., who supported the present study.

Depository. – The type specimen is deposited in the collections of Mr Andrè Schmidt, (Zofingen, Switzerland).

Description

Coloration. – The scorpion is yellow to slightly reddish-yellow with some darker zones on carapace and metasoma. Only the areas covered by a black substance or vegetal debris prevent a good observation.

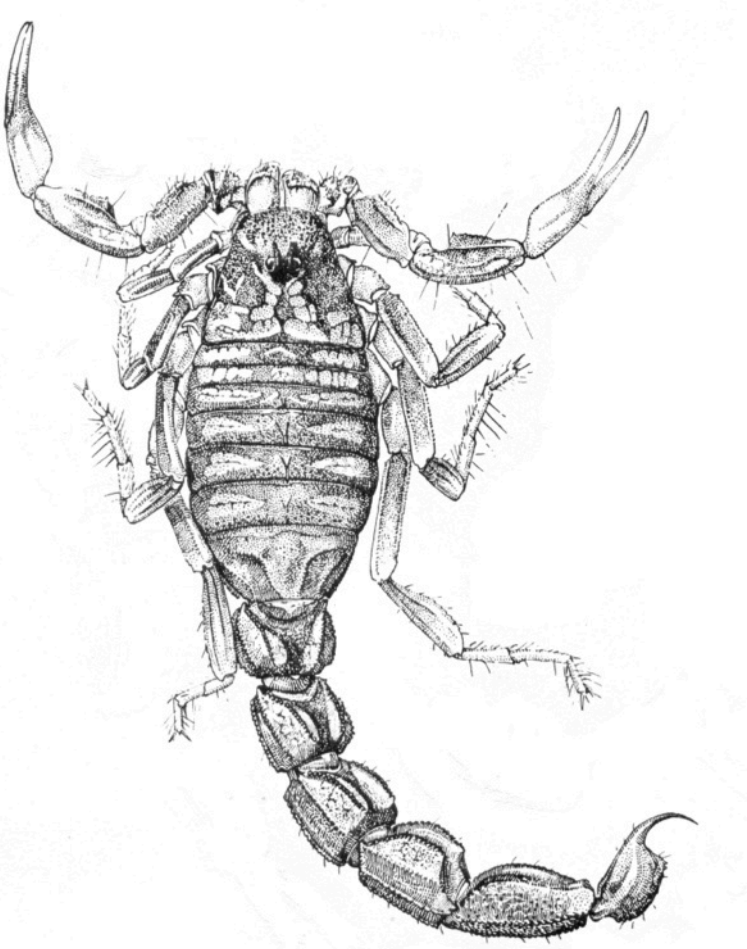


Fig. **1**. *Butheolus thalassinus* Simon, 1882. Male holotype. Habitus, dorsal aspect.

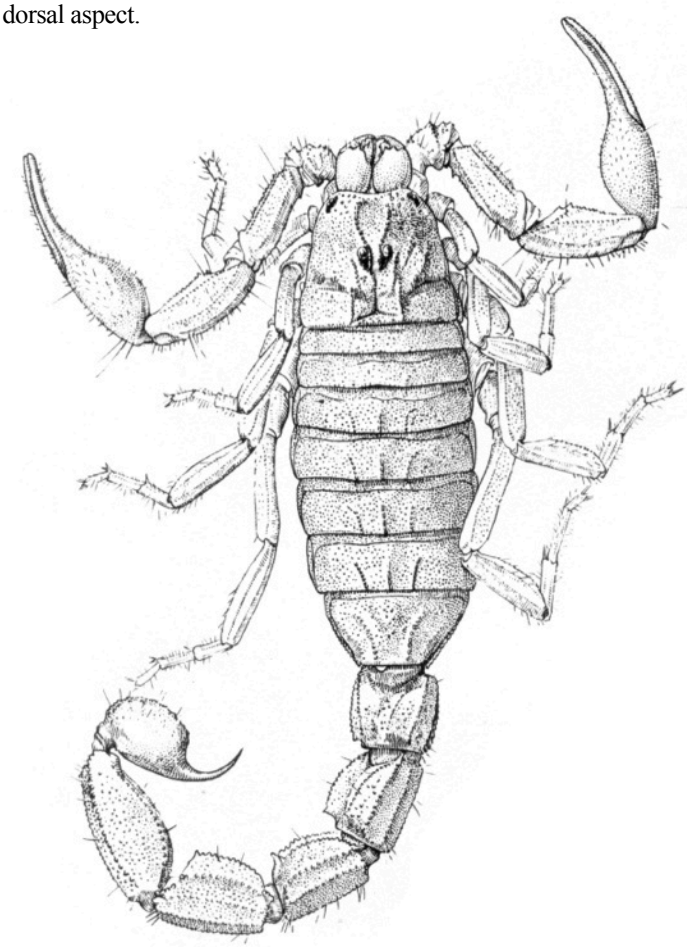


Fig. **2**. *Hottentotta trilineatus* (Peters, 1861). Male. Habitus, dorsal aspect.

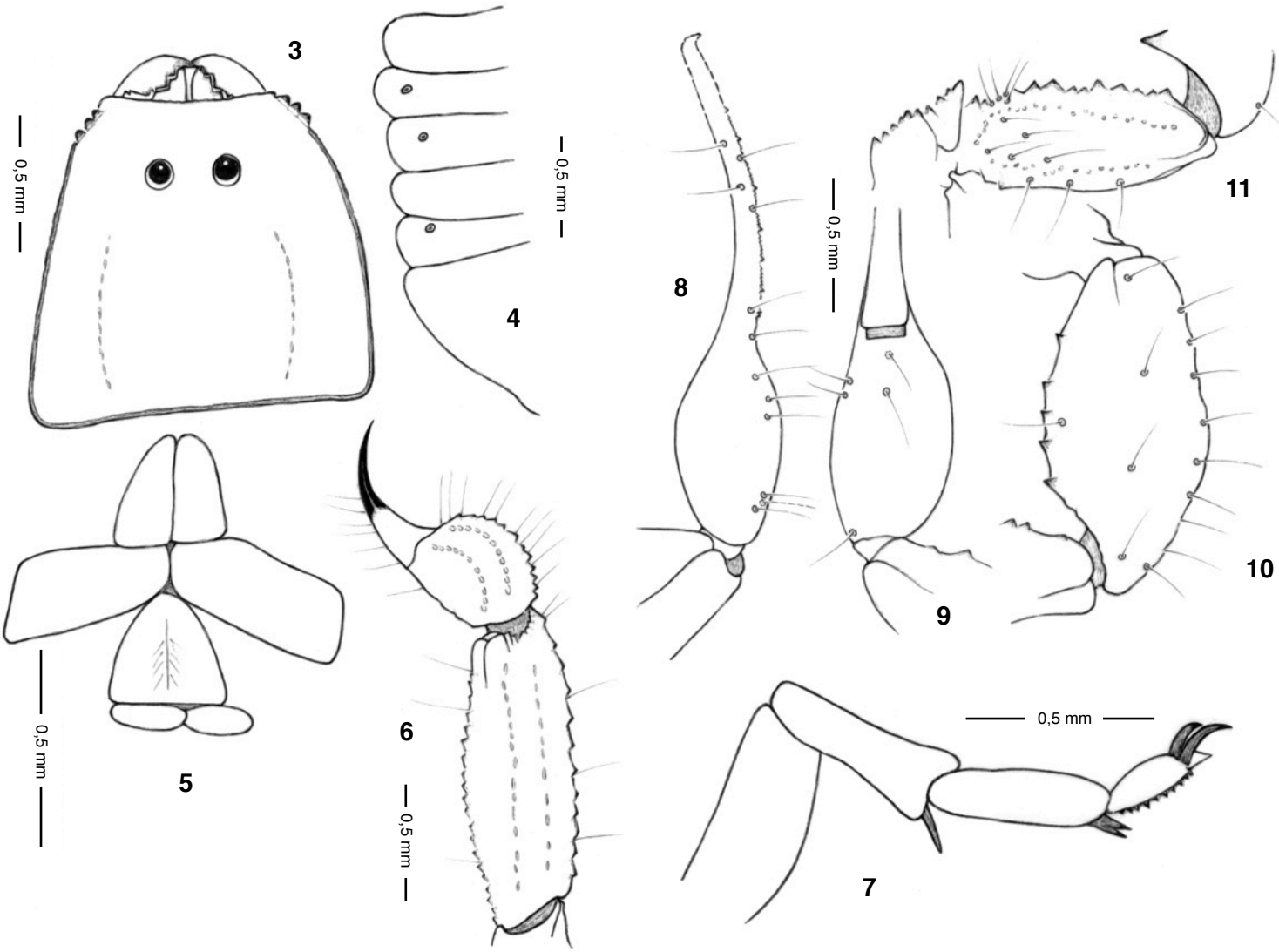


Fig. **3**-**11**. *Palaeobutheolus andreschmidti* Lourenço **gen**. **n**., **sp**. **n**. Male holotype.

3. Carapace, dorsal aspect. **4**. Sternites II to VII showing spiracles **5**. Ventral aspect showing coxapophysis, sternum and genital operculum. **6**. Metasomal segment V and telson, latero-ventral aspect. **7**. Leg IV, showing spurs. **8**-**11**. Trichobothrial pattern. **8**-**9**. Chela dorso-external and ventral aspects. **10**-**11**. Patella and femur, dorsal aspect.

Morphology. – Carapace weakly granular, mostly in the lateral regions; anterior margin with a weak concavity, almost straigth. Carinae inconspicuous; furrows weak. Median ocular tubercle largely anterior to the centre of the carapace; median eyes conspicuous and separated by more than one ocular diameter; three pairs of marked lateral eyes. Sternum pentagonal. Genital operculum with two semi-oval flattened plates. Mesosomal tergites weakly granular to smooth, with one median carina and two inconspicuous lateral carinae; VII with five carinae; the lateral weak and the internal inconspicous. Pectines large, with 19-20 teeth; fulcra present but reduced. Sternites apparently smooth with small rounded spiracle. Metasomal segments I and II apparently with 10 carinae; III-IV with 8 carinae without spinoid granules; segment V with 5 carinae; all segments are rounded, in particular V. Telson rounded in shape with two strong ventral carinae; sub-aculear tooth absent but presence of a pseudo annular ring. Chelicera with buthid type dentition (Vachon, 1963); fixed and movable fingers with two small basal teeth. Pedipalp femur pentacarinate; patella with 6-7 carinae; both segments weakly granular; internal face of femur and patella with spinoid granules; chela weakly elongated with vestigial carinae; chela fingers with 8-9 rows of small granules, separated by slightly bigger central accessory granules. Trichobothrial pattern similar to the extant buthid type A (Vachon 1974). See diagnosis for details. Legs tarsi with short spinoid setae forming more or less a brush. Tibial spurs present on legs III and IV, moderately marked; pedal spurs present on legs I-IV weak to moderate in size.

Morphometric values (mm). Male holotype of *Palaeobutheolus andreschmidti* Lourenço **gen**. **n**., **sp**. **n**.

– ***Total length*** including telson, 9.45.

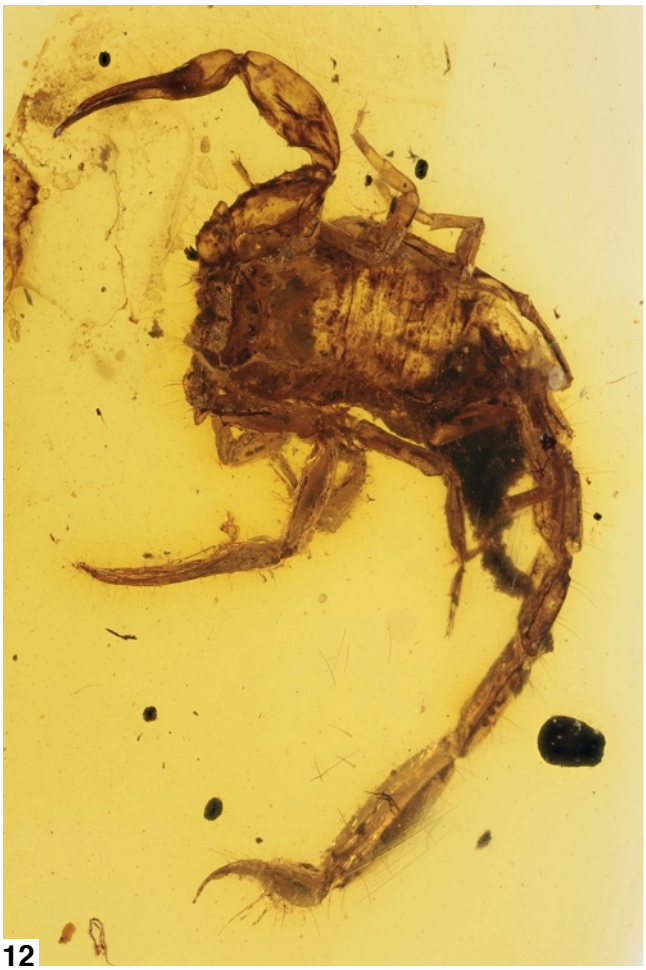
– ***Carapace***
length 1.14;
anterior width 0.91;
posterior width 1.54.

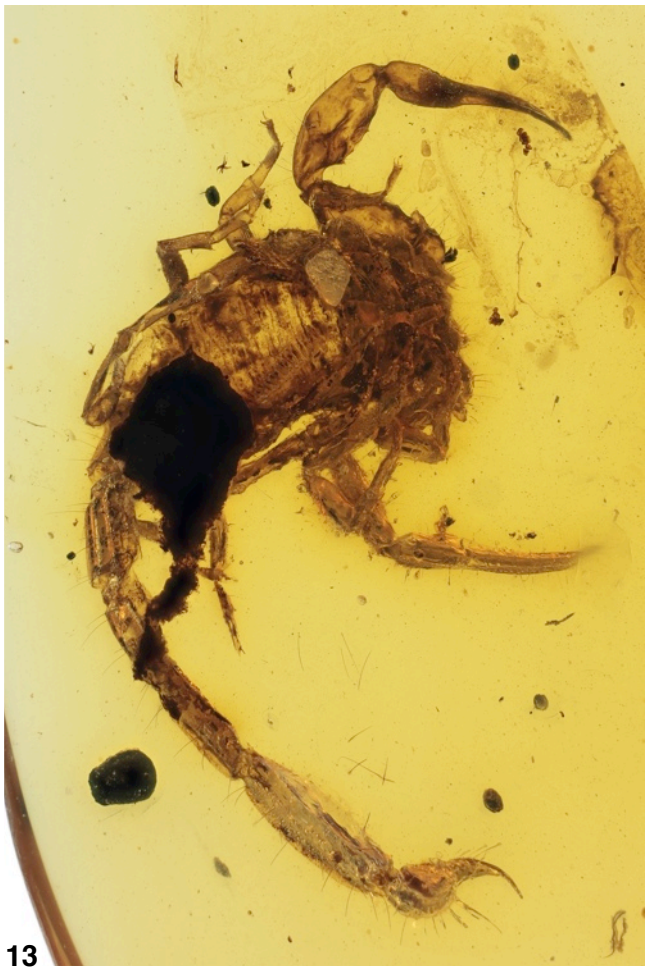
– ***Mesosoma*** length 1.64.

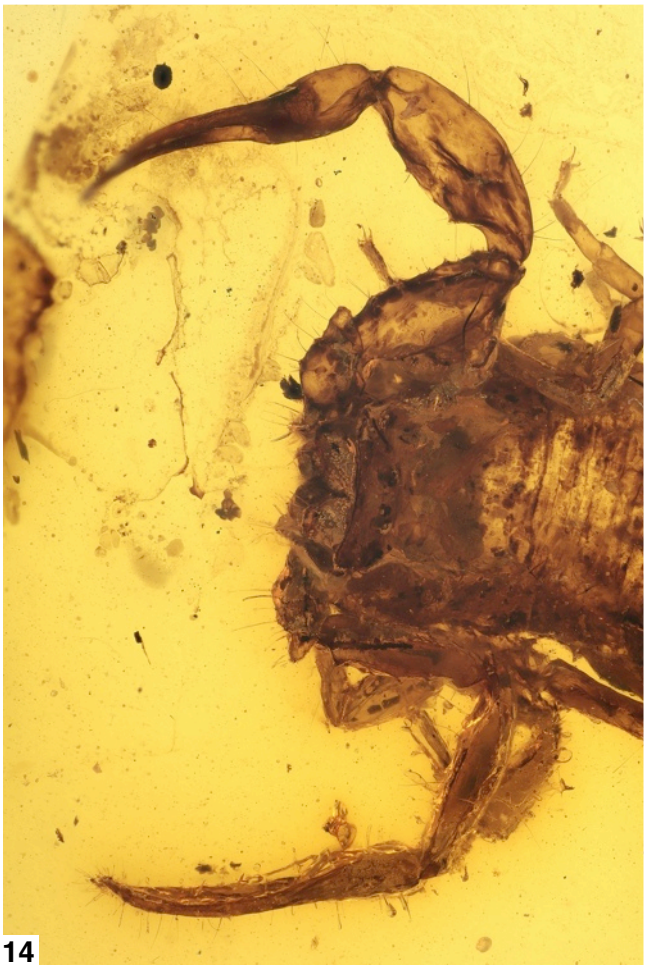
– ***Metasomal segments***
I: length 0.74, width 0.74;
II: length 0.91, width 0.74;
III: length 1.04, width 0.81;
IV: length 1.07, width 0.82;
V: length 1.64, width 0.83.

– ***Telson***
length 1.27;
width 0.54;
depth 0.44.

– ***Pedipalp***
femur length 1.09, width 0.35;
patella length 1.28, width 0.39;
chela length 2.07, width 0.34;
movable finger length 1.27.







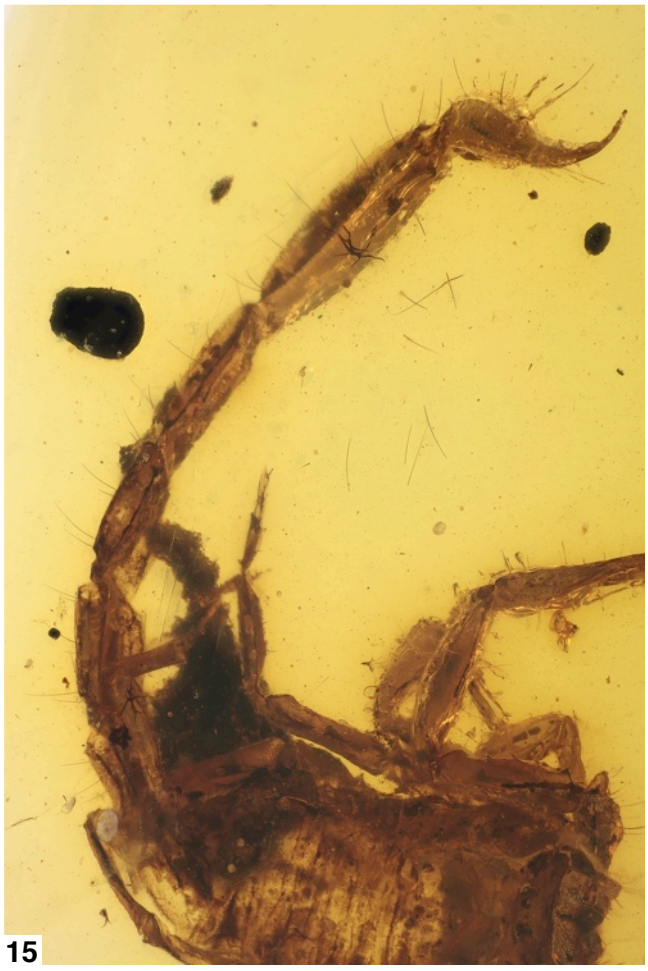


Fig. **12**-**15**. *Palaeobutheolus andreschmidti* Lourenço **gen**. **n**., **sp**. **n**. Male holotype.
12-**13**. Habitus, dorsal and ventral aspects. **14**. Carapace and pedipalps. **15**. Metasoma and telson.

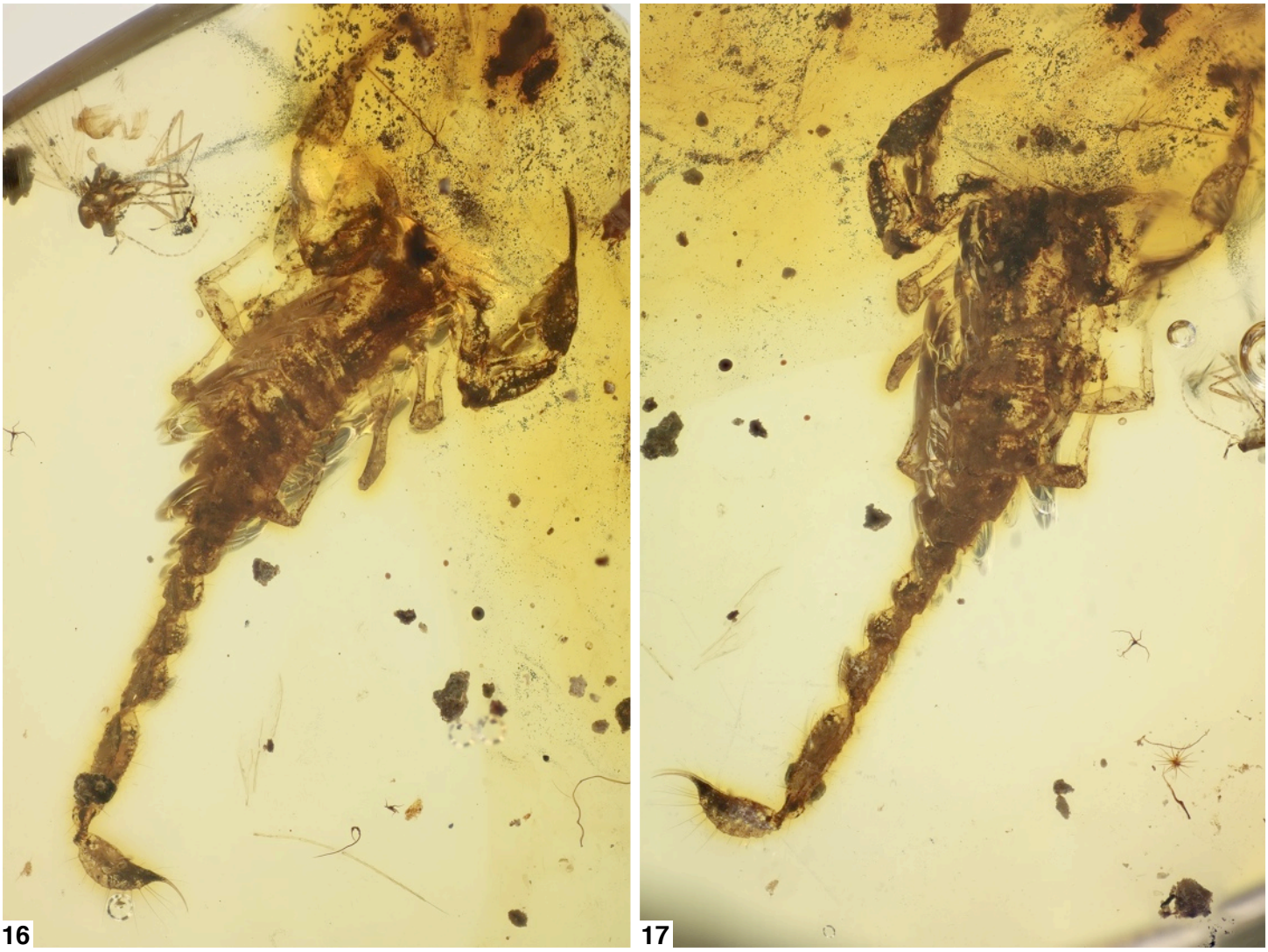


Fig. **16**-**17**. *Chaerilobuthus schwarzi*. Habitus of male juvenile, dorsal and ventral aspects.

Other species also examined during this study

Chaerilobuthus schwarzi Lourenço, 2015
(Family Chaerilobuthidae)

A very small juvenile with a total length of 5.74 mm. Specimen included in a very clear rounded piece of amber. Global coloration pale yellow. The species is clearly characterised by the shape and size of the telson, the absence of eyes, the typical carinae on femur, patella and chela and the size of pectines with a number of 6 teeth, which suggests that the specimen is a male (Fig. 16 - 17).

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Authors contribution [1]

Publisher Correspondence. – WL
Writing the article. – WL
Description. – WL
Article proofreading. – WL
Bibliographic work. – WL
Material study. – WL & JV
Author of the figures. – WL (Fig. 1-11).

[1] **WL** = Wilson R. Lourenço – **JV** = Jürgen Velten

Résumé

Lourenço W. R. & Velten J., 2025. – Un nouveau genre et une nouvelle espèce remarquable de scorpion fossile de l'ambre Crétacé de Birmanie associés à la famille actuelle des Buthidae (Scorpiones : Buthoidea). *Faunitaxys*, 13(35): 1 – 6.

L'étude d'un nouveau spécimen de scorpions de l'ambre du Crétacé inférieur du Myanmar conduit aux descriptions d'un nouveau genre et d'une nouvelle espèce pouvant, une fois de plus, être associés à la lignée des Buthoidea ainsi qu'à la famille des Buthidae. La nouvelle espèce présente également des caractères très distincts, notamment un telson très arrondi, avec absence d'épine sous-aiguillonaire mais la présence d'une pseudo constriction à la base de l'aiguillon, caractère plutôt rare chez les Buthidae en général. Plusieurs caractères associent le nouveau genre à certains genres actuels tels *Butheolus* Simon, 1882 et *Hottentotta* Birula, 1908. La découverte de ce nouveau genre et espèce confirme, une fois de plus, l'existence d'éléments appartenant aux Buthidae au sein de la faune scorpionique de l'ambre Crétacé de Myanmar.

Mots-clés. – Scorpiones, *Palaeobutheolus*, *andreschmidti*, nouveau genre, nouvelle espèce, taxonomie, description, variabilité, fossile, Ambre Birman.

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One more remarkable new genus and species of fossil scorpion from Burmese Cretaceous amber associated to the extant family Buthidae (Scorpiones: Buthoidea).

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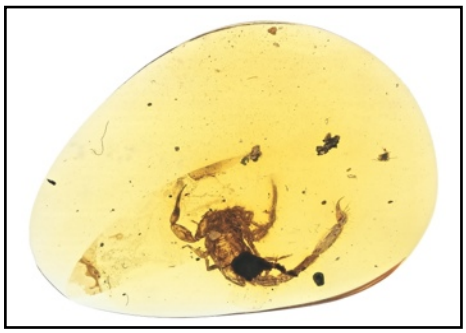

Illustration de la couverture :

Palaeobutheolus andreschmidti Lourenço **gen**. **n**., **sp**. **n**. in the stone; ventral aspect.

Crédits:

Wilson R. **Lourenço** : Fig. 1-11.

Alexander Beigel : Fig. 12-17 & couverture.

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